

CountrySTAT Regional Basic Administrator Training for GCC Member States

Introduction to the CountrySTAT Framework

by

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OVERVIEW

- Supporting the GCC's Regional Information Objectives
- Overview of CountrySTAT and RegionSTAT
- FENIX Platform
- International Standards
- Institutional Coordination
- Capacity Development
- E-Learning
- Links to the Global Strategy
- Data Available from Agricultural Censuses/Surveys, Food Balance Sheets and Statistical Yearbooks

Supporting the GCC's Regional Information Objectives

- The GCC must be able to monitor the implementation of regional policies, evaluate the progress made in Member States on developing the agricultural sector and improving food security, and disseminate information to stakeholders for improved decision making.
- A first step is to strengthen national capacities to collect and disseminate official statistics using international standards, as well as create a regional network through the use of a common system where data can be shared between countries and the GCC Headquarters.
- A second step is to strengthen the GCC and their systems to facilitate the management, analysis and dissemination of regional statistics. This can be done through the integration with the CountrySTAT/RegionSTAT platform.

Supporting the GCC's Regional Information Objectives

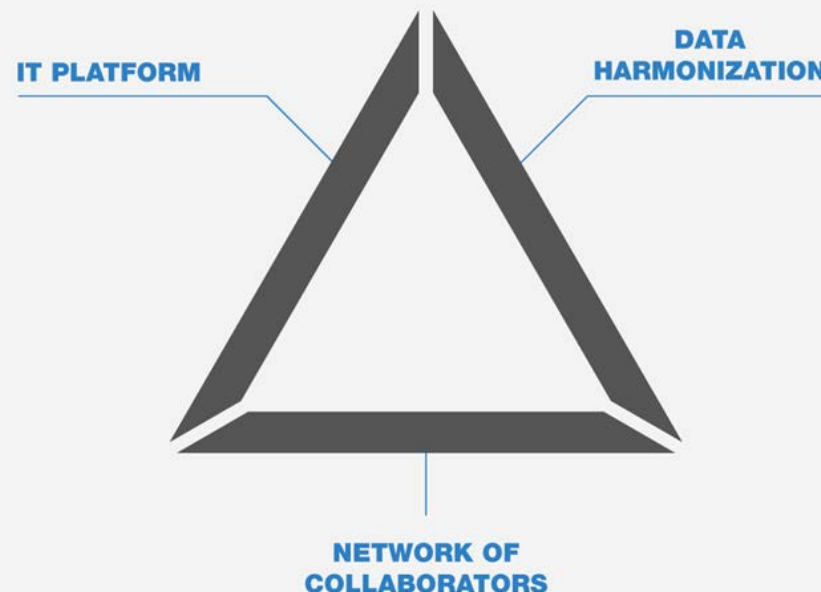
- It is important for the GCC to ensure that all member states use common systems in order to ensure they make official data available using the same standards, concepts and definitions and classification of commodities. This will ensure the aggregation of data from all GCC member states can be available online for a variety of users.

Overview of CountrySTAT and RegionSTAT

- CountrySTAT/RegionSTAT is a web-based information system for managing and disseminating food and agriculture statistics at **regional, national** and **sub national** levels.
- It provides methodology, standards and tools.
- CountrySTAT can contribute toward the **centralization, harmonization, standardization, integration** and **validation of** data on food and agriculture coming from different sources within the GCC Region.

Overview of CountrySTAT and RegionSTAT

The Regional Network of Institutions, the Information System and Statistical Component are essential to be successful in presenting a clear picture of the agriculture and food security situation. The 3 must work together.



FENIX

- The CountrySTAT/RegionSTAT systems are based on the FENIX platform which has been used in the development of the new FAOSTAT system which is the world's largest agricultural database
- The FENIX platform is open-source and strengthens data sharing between countries, regional organizations and international organizations
- An open-source community can be developed in the GCC region to support development and/or country specific needs of various tools
- The system can be customized and features can be added to fit country/regional needs
- Users have access to functionalities such as dynamic charts, maps, tables, and mobile data collection
- It is possible to distribute the tool without cost to FAO partners and beneficiaries.

FENIX

- FENIX promotes and implements international standards to manage and integrate data across national/regional/international databases. These standards include:
 - FAOSTAT coding system
 - the Harmonized System Commodity Classification (HS)
 - the Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL)
- Countries can upload data using CountrySTAT that will help ease their national reporting requirements, as many domains are available where questionnaires are sent from FAO and the same will apply for GCC data as well

International Standards

International comparability is of critical importance when sharing data.

Only through the use of international standards can countries support the needs of national, regional and international users. The Statistics Component leads on providing technical assistance and training in this area.

- An important activity is the mapping (correspondence) of local classifications to the reference standards, through a participatory approach involving national stakeholders.

The CountrySTAT Framework uses:

- FAOSTAT Concepts and Definitions
- Standard Classification of Commodities
- Structured and Comprehensive Metadata

Institutional Coordination

- Official statistics related to agriculture and food are produced by many institutions, NOT ONLY ONE.
- Cooperation is key to making a comprehensive presentation of the food security situation of a country, as well as a region, in a timely manner.
- The CountrySTAT Framework is driven by collaboration from national institutions to bring together data related to thematic areas such as Production, Trade, Prices, Forestry, Fisheries and Food Availability.
- In collaboration with FAO guidance is provided to countries on how to work together and reap the benefits of Technical Working Groups composed of experts from national institutions.
 - Ensure data made available on line is official,
 - Adheres to international standards
 - Is harmonized considering complimentary datasets made available in the system

Capacity Development

- A strong capacity development programme is in place to support countries in their efforts to harmonize data coming from multiple sources.
- National and Regional training workshops can be organized to support:
 - Classification of national commodities at the international level;
 - Structure of data, conversion of units of measure;
 - Importance of the preparation of metadata to support the reliability of national official statistics;
 - Train administrators on how to manage their national CountrySTAT System;
 - How to prepare data for upload and publication using the CountrySTAT System.

e-Learning

- Working toward regional statistical objectives requires collaboration with many experts have busy schedules which means they may not all be in the same location at the same time.
- e-Learning can facilitate learning on the go.
 - Accessible via the internet;
 - or with a CD that can travel with you.
- Users can learn about data management and dissemination using CountrySTAT e-Learning in order to:
 - Better understand basic concepts on the methodology and main steps for data publication;
 - How to ensure data meeting international standards and quality criteria;
 - Metadata and how it supports the reliability of the data online;
 - Can be used to sensitize members of your national secretariat;
 - Can serve as material to train trainers at the national level.

Links to the Global Strategy

- The Global Strategy is a framework to enhance and expand the availability and the use of basic agricultural data for better decision making:
more reliable, timely data!
- Provides a blueprint for a coordinated, long-term initiative:
sustainability
ownership!

Links to the Global Strategy

CountrySTAT contributes toward countries delivering on:

1. Minimum set of core data which supports urgent data needs at national and regional levels
2. Integration of CountrySTAT into National Statistical Systems
 - Access to official statistics for dissemination purposes
 - Storage and retrieval of surveys results
 - Access to farm, household, geo-referenced data for research
3. Better governance and statistical capacity building through strengthening Technical Working Groups and developing capacity toward the sustainability in the management of national statistical systems.

Data Available using CountrySTAT

CountrySTAT has the flexibility for countries to make an abundance of national data available such as:

- Agricultural Censuses/Surveys;
- Food Balance Sheets;
- Statistical Yearbooks;
- Metadata that can be downloaded by users such as data collection methodology;
- Important National Documents, Bulletins, and Newsletters

Thank you